

# Certificate Program in Pre-Theology Studies for Seminarians

**School of Philosophy**  
**in Collaboration with the School of Theology and Religious Studies and Theological College**  
**The Catholic University of America**

With the resources of the ecclesiastical faculties of the School of Philosophy and the School of Theology and Religious Studies, and the diversity of course offerings in languages, literature, history, the social sciences, speech, and the arts provided by the university, The Catholic University of America is prepared to offer an outstanding academic program in pre-theology studies for seminarians inspired by the vision and in accord with the norms of *The Program of Priestly Formation*, fifth edition. The university is supported in its academic formation of seminarians by Theological College, the university seminary, and its associations with other seminaries and religious institutes preparing candidates for the priesthood.

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A fundamental premise of this Certificate Program in Pre-Theology Studies for Seminarians is that Catholic University has special and unique resources for educating seminarians according to the mind and spirit of the fifth edition of the *Program of Priestly Formation* and that seminarians who pursue the two-year program outlined in the *Program of Priestly Formation* at Catholic University deserve to be honored and recognized for their pre-theology studies at this university. The certificate is a credential for and a recognition of studies conducted at The Catholic University of America.

Seminarians from dioceses and religious orders would be eligible for admission to the certificate program. Candidates for the certificate program would hold a bachelor's degree and possess a good academic record.

Students admitted to the certificate program are matriculated in the School of Philosophy. The Associate Dean of the School of Philosophy administers the program, provides academic advising, and determines the program of study for each candidate according to the provisions of the certificate program outlined in this document.

The certificate program would admit students as soon as full university approval is obtained.

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

- The Certificate in Pre-Theology Studies is awarded upon the completion of 16 to 20 courses for a total of 48 to 60 credits over the two-year period of the program. Seminarians would take a minimum of 4 courses each semester but the program allows students and would encourage them to take full advantage of the richness of the offerings of the university for pre-theology studies by additional study.
- The certificate program requires the following distribution of courses in order to reach 16 courses for 48 credits:
  1. 10 philosophy courses (30 credits)
  2. 4 theology courses (12 credits)
  3. 2 courses in Latin or other appropriate course work as specified in the *Program of Priestly Formation*, Fifth Edition (6 credits)

For candidates satisfying more than the minimum requirements for the certificate, further appropriate course work in theology, languages, the liberal arts, and speech would be added, in accord with the norms of the *Program of Priestly Formation*.

- To earn the certificate all courses must be passed with a grade of C or better.
- In accord with the fundamental premise of the certificate program cited above, candidates for the certificate program earn the certificate through course work at Catholic University according to the following policies:
  1. Students will always take at least 4 theology courses and the 2 additional courses at the university to earn the certificate.
  2. If students have taken theology courses elsewhere that are fully equivalent to theology courses required for the certificate program, other appropriate theology courses would be substituted from the offerings of the School of Theology and Religious Studies. The Associate Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies for Seminary and Ministerial Studies would determine issues of equivalency for theology courses and indicate the appropriate substitute theology courses to the Associate Dean of the School of Philosophy.
  3. With respect to philosophy courses, up to 2 three-credit undergraduate courses in philosophy taken elsewhere that are fully equivalent to courses required in the certificate program here may be recognized and other appropriate courses substituted for them. In every case at least half of the credits earned toward the certificate will be in philosophy courses taken at Catholic University. Thus, if the certificate is earned by completing 16 courses at Catholic University, at least 8 philosophy courses have to be included among those courses. If the certificate is earned with 20 courses at Catholic University, at least 10 philosophy courses have to be included among those courses. The Associate Dean of the School of Philosophy would determine issues of equivalency for philosophy courses.

#### CERTIFICATE PROGRAM WITH THE LICENTIATE OR MASTER OF ARTS. IN PHILOSOPHY

- For qualified candidates the certificate program offers the option of earning the Licentiate or Master of Arts degree in the School of Philosophy in the course of earning the certificate itself. The Licentiate or M.A. degree requires 8 graduate courses in philosophy and a thesis, which carries 6 credits, as well as an oral comprehensive examination and a foreign language requirement. The Licentiate or M.A. course and thesis work would stand in the place of the 10 philosophy courses in the certificate program. Admission to the Licentiate or M.A. program requires a minimum of 8 undergraduate philosophy courses. The normal application requirements for admission to the M.A. or Licentiate degree program would obtain. Selection of course work of seminarians in the certificate program studying for the Licentiate or M.A. in philosophy would be guided by the vision and norms of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, taking into account previous undergraduate work in philosophy.
- To earn the certificate with the Licentiate or M.A. degree all philosophy courses must be passed according to the normal standards for the graduate degree program. All other courses must be passed with a grade of C or better.

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#### PHILOSOPHY COURSES

The following chart outlines the philosophy courses to be taken in the certificate program with appropriate options for meeting the requirements of the *Program of Priestly Formation* and meeting the needs of individual students. The Associate Dean of the School of Philosophy would have final authority to determine appropriate course options and other matters relating to course work in the certificate program.

#### HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

1. PHIL 353, History of Ancient Philosophy
2. PHIL 354, History of Medieval Philosophy
3. PHIL 453, History of Modern Philosophy
4. PHIL 454, Contemporary Philosophy

ETHICS

5. PHIL 309, Theories of Ethics *or* PHIL 311, Contemporary Moral Issues

METAPHYSICS<sup>1</sup>

6. PHIL 355, Metaphysics I  
7. PHIL 356, Metaphysics II

PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND OTHER COURSES

8. PHIL 313, Philosophy of Human Nature
9. One of the following:  
 PHIL 331, Philosophy of Knowledge  
 PHIL 317, Philosophy of Religion  
 PHIL 311, Contemporary Moral Issues  
 PHIL 303, Bioethics  
 PHIL 315, Philosophy of Language  
 PHIL 332, Political Philosophy  
 PHIL 328, Philosophy of Social Science  
 PHIL 329, Philosophy of Science

LOGIC

10. PHIL 301, Reasoning and Argumentation *or* PHIL 351, Introduction to Symbolic Logic

<sup>1</sup> In special cases PHIL 305, Metaphysics, and PHIL 308, Philosophy of God, may be substituted for PHIL 355 and PHIL 356.

THEOLOGY COURSES

The following theology courses are the normal requirement for the certificate program:

1. TRS 562A Foundations of Catholicism I
2. TRS 562B Foundations of Catholicism II
3. TRS 504A Introduction to the Old Testament
4. TRS 504B Introduction to the New Testament